

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 1, 2016

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-350, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense  
H-405, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter Visclosky  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Members Lowy and Visclosky:

As the Committee on Appropriations finalizes a likely Fiscal Year 2017 continuing resolution (CR) through early next year, we ask that you include an anomaly to ensure adequate funding for the Carrier Replacement Program. If this anomaly is not included, funding for the Carrier Replacement Program at FY 2016 levels would harm the Navy's operational capability and cause costly schedule delays for the Navy and the shipbuilding industry.

Since the retirement of the *U.S.S. Enterprise* (CVN 65), our Navy has been operating with only 10 aircraft carriers – down from the 11 operational carriers required by law. This reduced capacity has required lengthier deployments, reduced operational availability, and deferred maintenance. Our over utilized fleet will thankfully begin to recover when the new *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78) joins the fleet after its test and evaluation period. However, the reduced funding that would be available in a FY17 CR without this anomaly will only delay construction and delivery of CVN 80 and will result in another temporary but costly reduction in the Navy's aircraft carrier force.

Affordable execution of the Carrier Replacement Program is dependent upon steady funding that provides the shipbuilder and the industrial base the predictability required for effective planning and procurement of equipment and materials. Ensuring that the Navy has this necessary funding in FY17 will continue to help the Defense Department, the Navy and industry contain costs and achieve the Navy's affordability goals for the Ford-class program. Any delay in advanced procurement for CVN 80 will only cost the Navy and taxpayers more money and hinder the Navy's future operational capability.

We hope that the Committee will include this anomaly and provide funding in any CR at the level requested in the President's FY 2017 budget request for the Carrier Replacement Program.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



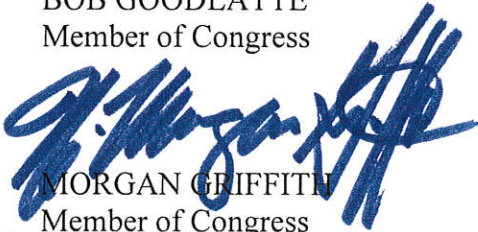
ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT  
Member of Congress



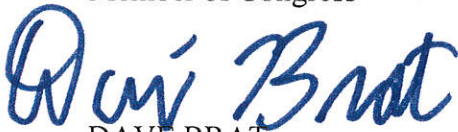
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Member of Congress



BOB GOODLATTE  
Member of Congress



MORGAN GRIFFITH  
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